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*A Historical Geography of the British Colonies.* By HUGH E. EGERTON, M.A., Beit Professor of Colonial History in the University of Oxford. Volume V. *Canada*. Part II. *Historical*. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1908. Pp. vii, 365.)

As the title indicates, this is one of a series of volumes on the *Historical Geography of the British Colonies*, planned and partly executed by Sir Charles Lucas, but which he found it impossible to finish. Professor Egerton deals with the British period of Canadian history, the French epoch having been treated in a previous volume of the series. The series is intended, primarily, for the advanced classes of secondary schools, and for such a purpose an exceptional amount of research is represented in the book before us.

Professor Egerton, in his preface, fully recognizes the difficulty of writing the history of a country, with the concrete conditions of which he is not familiar. But though evidences of this disadvantage are undoubtedly noticeable, yet, throughout the volume, there is constant evidence of an anxiety to obtain the most reliable information available, as well as of a scrupulous desire to be fair to the many conflicting interests which are represented in Canadian history.

So much in the earlier years of Canadian development depended upon the character and policy of the governors that they largely monopolize the historic stage during the first half of the nineteenth century. Yet most of the real problems of the country arose from the economic and social conditions which confronted the early settlers, but which have scarcely yet been sufficiently studied to bring out the true significance of the striking incidents in higher politics, or to permit always of the emphasis being placed in the proper quarter.

In the limited space of a small volume, only a bird's eye view of the leading events of Canadian history is possible. Yet Professor Egerton has maintained an admirable proportion in his treatment of the field assigned him, and has given his readers an introduction, at least, to the history of every portion of the large area now included in the Dominion of Canada. Thus, in chapter six, he introduces a sketch of the early western exploration which eventually opened up to British settlement the region lately divided between the new provinces of western Canada. On the other hand, he has recognized the comparative unimportance of the War of 1812, which, for lack of a better knowledge of the really vital factors in the country's development, has hitherto bulked so largely in Canadian histories. In his treatment of the stormy period from 1818 to 1840, the author, though sometimes perhaps misplacing the emphasis, yet manifests an admirable spirit of fairness in dealing with the bitter controversies between the government and the popular party. Book I., which covers the pre-Union period to 1841, closes with a chapter on the early history of the Maritime Provinces.

Book II. deals with the practical realization of the union of the two

Canadas, now Ontario and Quebec, and the early operation of responsible government. After Lord Elgin's time, however, the government was gradually brought to a dead-lock through the mutual entanglement of party and racial forces, which completely frustrated the normal operation of the political party system, and consequently of responsible cabinet government. In his treatment of this period, Professor Egerton has devoted more attention to the great economic and social problems, such as trade, transportation and education, which, though always vital factors in Canadian history, at this period bulk more largely in the usual historic records. In chapter six, due attention is given to the conditions and negotiations which resulted ultimately in confederation and the establishment of the Dominion of Canada. This is appropriately followed by another chapter on the later development of the Northwest which, when added to federated Canada, rounded out the Dominion to its present dimensions. As this was finally accomplished through the inclusion of British Columbia in 1871, book II. closes with that date.

Book III., confined to the last seventy pages, deals very briefly with the Dominion of Canada from 1871 to the present time. Here we find merely an outline of such matters as the relations between Canada and the United States, including boundaries, reciprocal trade, and fisheries; the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway; the tariff and protection. The relations between provincial and Dominion powers are passed in review, and the closing chapter of the volume gives a glimpse of present-day conditions.

A number of maps are distributed through the volume; but those purporting to represent the railways of the Dominion are most misleading. According to these there is in Canada but one railway and its connections—the Canadian Pacific Railway.

ADAM SHORTT.

[Collection de Documents Inédits sur l'Histoire Économique de la Révolution Française, publiés par le Ministère de l'Instruction Publique]: *Département du Loiret, Cahiers de Doléances du Bailliage d'Orléans pour les États Généraux de 1789*. Publiés par CAMILLE BLOCH. Tomes I.–II. (Orléans: Imprimerie Orléanaise. 1907. Pp. lxxvi, 800, and ii, 515); *Département de la Marne, Cahiers de Doléances pour les États Généraux de 1789*. Publiés par GUSTAV LAURENT. Tome I. *Bailliage de Châlons-sur-Marne*. (Épernay: Imprimerie Henri Villers. 1906. Pp. xxxii, 872); *Département de Meurthe-et-Moselle, Cahiers de Doléances des Bailliages des Généralités de Metz et de Nancy pour les États Généraux de 1789*. 1<sup>re</sup> Série, Tome I. *Cahiers du Bailliage de Vic*. Publiés par CHARLES ÉTIENNE. (Nancy: Imprimerie Berger-Levrault et Cie. 1907. Pp. xxxvi, 775);